

## Examination wrapper

Questions for group or pair discussions focusing on metacognitive aspects, as well as general examination preparation. It is recommend that not using all of the questions are asked all at once!

### Before the examination:

#### Knowing what you will be asked to do:

- What are the key topics for the examination?
- Do you have a list of what will be included in the examination?
- Give a number to each topic in terms of your confidence from 1 to 10, with 10 being 'you think you know this inside out' to 0 being 'you know nothing'. Prioritise topics which you feel the least confident with and those that are central to the examination.
- What type of questions will you be asked, e.g. multiple choice, short answer, essay questions.

#### Considering your approach to revision:

- Is there a revision sheet or summary document? Do you know what to revise from?
- What revision strategies do you know of?
- Which revision strategies do you usually use? Do these strategies work for you?
- Talk to other students about what their revision strategies are.
- Which revision strategies would be most suitable for revising: key words, definitions, key points, factual information, formulating an argument, longer answer questions such as essays? What type of information will I need to revise for this exam? How will you match this to a revision strategy?
- Consider trying to expand the number of revision strategies you use and think about trying out some new ones when revising for this examination.
- What will you revise?
- How will you approach revision?
- Where will you revise? Why does that matter?
- How long will you spend revising? When will you revise? How long will each revision chunk be? Why is it important to break revision time into chunks?

#### Dealing with difficulties that arise during revision:

- What will you do if you don't understand the content you are revising?
- What will you do if you don't understand some of the terminology?
- What will you do if you are feeling very under confident in preparing for the examination?
- What will you do if you are struggling with how to actually revise?
- How will you test out if your revision strategy is working during the revision period?
- What will you do if you feel the material to be revised isn't 'sticking'?

#### On the run up to the exam:

- How will you prepare for the exam the night before?
- How you spend your time three hours, two hours and one hour before the exam?
- What will you eat and drink? Why do you think this matters?
- What equipment will you bring to the examination?
- How have you approached examinations in the past? Was this successful? Will you try anything different this time?

### **Thinking about during the examination:**

- What strategies will you use during the examination to help you maximise your marks?
- Brainstorm with other students approaches you can take to the following:
  - Understanding the question
  - Managing your time
  - Checking your answers
  - Making sure you get all the marks for a question
  - What to do when you think you don't know the answer
  - Making sure the examiner can understand your point
  - How you use any spare time at the end of the exam
  - Using diagrams
  - Answering essay questions

### **After the examination**

#### **How would you rate yourself on 'Knowing what you will be asked to do':**

Did you have a really good understanding of what would be required in the examination? How did this impact on your result?

For example:

- Did you know what key topics would be covered in the examination?
- Did you have a list of what was to be included in the examination and how did you use it?
- Did you consider your confidence level for different topic areas? How did you prioritise what to revise?
- Did you know what type of questions you would be asked, e.g. multiple choice, short answer, essay questions. How did you use this information? How did this help / not help / could have been used more?

How do you think you could have improved your knowledge about what you would be asked to do in the examination.

#### **How would you rate 'your approach to revision':**

- Which revision strategies did you use?
- How successful do you think these strategies were?
- Have you used these strategies before?
- Would you use these strategies again?
- Could you improve on the revision strategies used?
- Do you need to increase your knowledge and understanding of revision strategies?
- How did you approach your revision?
- Where did you revise? Did this work for you? Would you make any changes?
- How long did you spend revising? When did you revise? How long was each revision chunk? Did this work for you? Would you make any changes?

**How would you rate your approach to 'dealing with difficulties that arose during revision':**

- How did you deal with any aspects of the content that you did not understand when you were revising? Did this work? Would you use the same approach next time?
- What did you do when didn't understand some of the terminology? Did this work? Would you use the same approach next time?
- What did you do when you were feeling very under confident in preparing for the examination? Did this work? Would you use the same approach next time?
- What did you do if you found yourself struggling with how to actually revise? Did this work? Would you use the same approach next time?
- Would you make any changes to how you dealt with issues that arose during the revision period?

**How would you rate your approach 'to the run up to the exam':**

- How did you prepare for the exam the night before?
- How did spend your time three hours, two hours and one hour before the exam?
- What did you eat and drink?
- What equipment did you bring to the examination?
- Would you make any changes to your approach the examination?
- How do you think your approach impacted on the result?
- Would you make any changes to your approach to the examination?

**How would you rate 'your thinking during the examination':**

- What strategies did you use during the examination to help you maximise your marks?
- Consider how you thought through and approached the following:
  - Understanding the question
  - Managing your time
  - Checking your answers
  - Making sure maximised the marks for a question
  - What to do when you think you don't know the answer
  - Making sure the examiner can understand your point
  - How you use any spare time at the end
  - Using diagrams
  - Answering essay questions
- Would you make any changes to your 'thought processes' during the examination?
- How will you improve you 'during the examination' technique?

### Knowing and understanding 'what next':

- Which **topics / areas** of the examination were a **key strength** for you? Why do you think this was? How does knowing this help you when preparing for future examinations?
- Which **topics / areas** for the examination were your **weakest**? Why do you think this was? How does knowing this help you when preparing for future examinations?
- Which **type of question** were you **most successful** with, e.g. multiple choice, short answer, structured questions, essays. How does knowing this help you when preparing for future examinations?
- Which **type of question** were you **least successful** with, e.g. multiple choice, short answer, structured questions, essays. How does knowing this help you when preparing for future examinations?
- Sometimes students lose one or two marks across a lot of questions rather than get questions completely wrong. What was your **'profile'**? How could you use this information to help you get more marks in your next examination?
- Look at the model answers / mark scheme and compare your answers. Look at what content or approach was used. Take some of the questions and using some of the following strategies:
  - **Add to** your answer to increase the number of marks.
  - **Delete** aspects that were incorrect and write in correct answers.
  - **Re-write** answers to express your points more clearly.
  - Provide a **counter argument** if you only gave one side of the argument. Write the advantages if you only gave the disadvantages, etc.
  - **Select questions to re-answer** or now have a go at questions which you did not gain any marks for.
  - **Improve answers** to gain maximum marks.
  - Improve the **quality / accuracy of definitions**
  - Improve your **use of subject specific terminology**
- Write yourself a plan of how you will approach the next examination. How will you make improvements?